

WHY WE NEED A CONVENTION TO PROMOTE AND PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF OLDER PERSONS

- There are **gaps** in protection of older persons in existing human rights standards and laws.
- “Age” is not recognized as a category of **discrimination** – unlike gender, race, ethnicity, language, religion.
- Age discrimination and **ageism** are widely tolerated throughout the world.
- Older persons are often treated as subjects or objects of welfare instead of as **rights holders**
- Older persons are often **vulnerable to deprivation and exclusion**, disproportionately during times of crisis.
- Single most pressing challenge to the welfare of older persons is **poverty**, characterized by homelessness, malnutrition, unattended chronic diseases, lack of access to safe drinking water and sanitation, unaffordable medicines and treatments, income insecurity.
- Older persons are at higher risk of **abuse and violence** – physical, verbal, sexual, psychological or financial – and the consequences are often more severe.
- Respect for older persons’ rights also **benefits society** as a whole.

**Older persons do not lose their rights as they get older !!
Everyone should grow old and prosper with dignity !!**

WHAT IS THE ADDED VALUE OF A SPECIFIC CONVENTION TO PROTECT AND PROMOTE THE RIGHTS OF OLDER PERSONS?

A new, legally binding instrument would bring **clarity** to both the nature of older persons’ rights and the responsibilities necessary to protect them (think of specific conventions for children, women and persons with disabilities, which have made a HUGE difference to their lives and to society as a whole, around the world).

A convention on the rights of older persons would, among other things:

- **View older persons as rights-holders.**
- **Codify the rights** of older persons in one single document, recognizing the specific challenges related to ageing and serving as a tool for both empowerment and protection.
- Act as an **anti-discriminatory tool** to challenge prevailing negative stereotypes about old age.
- Require governments to **collect data, develop indicators, establish laws and policies, develop programmes** that take into account the concerns of older persons.
- Improve **State accountability and transparency** with respect to actions taken for older persons, including with their active participation.
- Raise **public awareness** in respect of older persons’ rights.
- **Create societies and environments for all ages, where older persons are able to contribute, prosper and enjoy their rights.**

SUPPORT US !!!! → → →

GET INVOLVED !!!!!

- If your NGO does not have ECOSOC status, accredit your NGO to the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing process (OEWGA): **next session will take place from 12-15 December 2016.** <http://social.un.org/ageing-working-group/seventhsession.shtml>. **Deadline: 31 October 2016**
- ECOSOC consultative status is not required to participate in the OEWGA process. NGOs with an interest in older persons' rights can be accredited to **attend sessions, and submit statements, information and reports.** **Deadline for registration by NGOs with ECOSOC status is 6 December 2016.**
- **Become a member of the Global Alliance for the Rights of Older People (GAROP)** and contribute to the unified voice around the world advocating for a convention to protect the rights of older persons: www.rightsofolderpeople.org.
- **Contact your government authorities** and urge them to support a convention.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION – READ ALL ABOUT IT !!!!!

- **General Assembly resolution 70/164** on measures to enhance the promotion and protection of the human rights and dignity of older persons.
- **Reports of the OEWG:** A/AC.278/2011/4; A/Ac.278/2011/5; A/C.278/2012/1; A/AC/278/2013/2; A/AC.278/2014/2; A/AC.278/2015/2.
- **Reports of the Secretary-General:** A/65/158; A/66/173; A/67/188; A/68/167; A/69/180; A/70/185.
- **General Assembly resolution 46/91** on United Nations Principles for Older Persons.
- **Reports of the Human Rights Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons,** and of experts and rapporteurs: A/HRC/27/46; A/HRC/30/43 and addenda 1-3; A/HRC/30/43; A/HRC/14/31; A/HRC/18/37; IE'S Comprehensive Report A/HRC/33/44 (Sep. 2016)
- **Reports of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human rights:** E/2012/51; A/HRC/24/25; Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, (CEDAW): General Recommendation 27.

USEFUL WEBSITES

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/ageing> - United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Focal Point on Ageing

<http://www.ohchr.org> - Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Countries/NHRI/Pages/NHRIMain.aspx> - OHCHR, National Human Rights Institutes.

<http://www.who.int/ageing> - World Health Organization (WHO)

<http://www.rightsofolderpeople.org> - Global Alliance for the Rights of Older People (GAROP)

<http://www.helpage.org/what-we-do/rights> - HelpAge International (HAI)

<http://www.iagg.info> – International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics (IAGG)

<http://www.ilc-alliance.org> - International Longevity Center, Global Alliance (ILC, GA)

<http://www.ifa-fiv.org> - International Federation on Ageing (IFA)

<http://www.inpea.net> - International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA)

**SUPPORT EFFORTS TO
START DRAFTING A CONVENTION
NOW !!!!!**

Contact Co-Chairs, NGO/CoA-NY, Subcommittee to Promote a Human Rights Convention for Older Persons:
Susan Somers: sbsomers5@aol.com and Frances Zainoeddin: fzainoeddin@msn.com.

24 October 2016